CAG findings on performance of Sukhoi jets

332. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of Comptroller and Auditor General on the adverse performance capabilities of the Sukhoi SU-30K aircrafts;

(b) what has been done to rectify the performance shortcomings; and

(c) the time required and financial liability thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There were no findings of Comptroller and Auditor General on the adverse performance capabilities of the Sukhoi SU-30K aircraft.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Need for acquiring fighter training aircraft

333. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by next year the Indian Air Force will be left without a fighter trainer when the MIG-21 aircraft, currently used for training pilots for super-sonic flying retires; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to speed up a decision on acquiring a fighter training aircraft so that the tempo of induction of fighter pilots into frontline squadrons is maintained, especially in the changed volatile international scenario?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) MIG-21 Trainer aircraft will start retiring from service in a phased manner from the next year. Various options for the acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer are under examination by the Government.